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NEWS

Air Pollution

Norway Wealth Fund to Join Class Suit Against Volkswagen
Norway's \$850 billion wealth fund will seek to join a class action lawsuit in Germany against Volkswagen AG following revelations the carmaker rigged the exhaust systems of 11 million diesel-powered cars worldwide to pass official...

Chemicals

EU Calls for Workplace Exposure Limits on Carcinogens
The European Commission proposed to amend May 13 a 2004 European Union directive on workplace safety by modifying occupational exposure limits for 13 carcinogenic substances...

Chemicals

Sony Off the Hook in Pre-Natal Exposure Suit
A mother waited too long to sue her employer alleging her daughter was injured by prenatal exposure to toxic chemicals, a California appeals court ruled May 13 (Lopez v. Sony Elec. Inc., Cal. Ct. App., No. B256792, 5/13/16)...

Climate Change

G-7 Environment Ministers Call for Climate Action
Environment ministers from Group of Seven major industrialized nations May 16 urged the global community to quickly adopt the Paris Agreement on climate change, to escalate recycling efforts and to phase out using hydrofluorocarbons as...

Climate Change

Obama Mocks Inhofe's Snowball in College Speech

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President Barack Obama criticized the chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee for minimizing "profound and dangerous" changes in the climate by tossing a snowball on the Senate floor during winter as evidence...

Climate Change

Sanctions Sought in Virgin Islands Climate Probe

Virgin Islands Attorney General Claude Earl Walker should be sanctioned for bringing a "defective" subpoena seeking the Competitive Enterprise Institute's work on climate change, the free market advocacy group said (Virgin...

Climate Regulation

Full D.C. Circuit to Hear Clean Power Plan Argument

The full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear oral argument over the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan Sept. 27, bypassing a hearing before a three-judge panel that had been slated to begin...

Courts

Both Sides Claim Victory in Statutory Injury SCOTUS Case

Both sides claimed victory in the U.S. Supreme Court's holding in a closely watched statutory violation suit May 16, that plaintiffs must show concrete—but not necessarily tangible—injury to access the federal courts...

Energy

DOE Exempts Some Power Supplies From Rulemaking

The Energy Department issued a final rule (RIN:1904-AD53) May 16 to exempt certain external power supplies from the Energy Power Supply Service Parts Act of 2014. External power supplies involve a circuit that is used to convert household...

Energy

House Defense Bill Would Expedite LNG Permitting

The Energy Department's permitting process for liquefied natural gas export projects would be expedited under Defense Department reauthorization legislation expected to reach the House floor by May 20....

Energy

India Could Scrap \$36B of Planned Coal-Fired Capacity

India's plan to add about 80 gigawatts of coal-fired power plants worth some \$72 billion is unraveling because of insufficient electricity demand....

Energy

Lawsuits Mount as Energy Transfer's Williams Bid Falters

Tensions between Williams Cos. and its would-be buyer Energy Transfer Equity LP intensified after Williams said it had filed a third lawsuit related to the souring merger (Williams Cos. v. Energy Transfer Equity LP, Del Ch., No. 12337-VCG,...

Enforcement

California Fines SoCalGas \$2.25M Over Pipeline Corrosion

California utility regulators fined Southern California Gas Co. \$2.25 million for failing to properly monitor and control corrosion on its underground pipeline system....

Environmental Justice

Groups Allege Conflict in Michigan Power Plan Acts

Environmental justice groups aren't happy with Michigan's efforts related to its state plan as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's broader Clean Power Plan rule. Several groups, including the Sierra Club, chided...

Great Lakes

U.S., Canada Publish Great Lakes Nearshore Plan

A key feature of the binational agreement aimed at restoring the integrity of the Great Lakes has been completed with the publication of a draft plan for addressing nearshore water quality for each of the five lakes....

International Climate

UN Climate Talks Focus on 'Rule Book' for Paris Pact

Representatives from nearly 200 countries began work May 16 on a new "rule book" that will govern the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change, agreed to six months ago in the French capital....

Oil & Gas

Oil at \$45 a Barrel Proving No Savior as Bankruptcies Pile Up

Three bankruptcies show that \$45 a barrel oil isn't enough to rescue energy companies on the verge of collapse....

Pesticides

Pesticides on Seeds Lawsuit to Move Forward

A federal judge refused to dismiss a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency over its regulation of seeds coated in pesticides (Anderson v. McCarthy, N.D. Cal., No. 3:16-cv-00068, 5/13/16)....

Pesticides

U.S. Bees Continue Decline; Chemicals, Pests Blamed

U.S. honeybee numbers continued to drop, according to two studies, with scientists blaming pesticides and mite infestations while the pace of the phenomenon known as colony collapse disorder accelerated in the first quarter....

Pesticides

UN Agencies: Glyphosate 'Unlikely' to Cause Cancer

A pair of United Nations agencies said the widely used herbicide glyphosate and two insecticides—diazinon and malathion—are unlikely to pose carcinogenic risk to human beings when exposed to the body in dietary form. ...

Pipeline Safety

PHMSA Sued for Approving Enbridge Oil Spill Plan

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration was sued May 16 for approving an emergency response plan in 2013

for a 641-mile oil pipeline that traverses Michigan's navigable waters enroute to Canada (Nat'l Wildlife...

Renewable Energy

China's Clean Energy Storage Seen Surging by 2020

China could dramatically increase its energy storage capacity to 14.5 gigawatts by 2020 as the world's biggest clean-energy investor takes firmer aim at cutting renewables waste, the China Energy Storage Alliance forecasts....

Risk Assessment

Solvent Harms Kidney Function, EPA Assessment Finds

A widely used solvent and fuel additive can harm kidney function, according to a draft assessment the Environmental Protection Agency released May 16....

Superfund

Insurer Must Defend Portland Harbor Superfund Claims

An "umbrella" insurer for environmental contamination claims at the Portland Harbor Superfund Site in Oregon shares a duty to defend those claims with other insurers, the Ninth Circuit ruled May 13 in an unpublished decision (Northwest...

Trade

India to File Numerous WTO Complaints Against U.S.

India is considering filing as many as 16 complaints against the U.S. at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body for alleged violations of global trading rules, a Commerce and Industry Minister official said May 13....

Water Pollution

Eligible Tribes Can Run Water Programs, EPA Rule Says

Indian tribes that meet certain eligibility requirements have authority to administer Clean Water Act regulatory programs throughout their entire reservations and to receive grants, the Environmental Protection Agency said in a final...

Water Pollution

House to Vote on Deregulating Pesticide Discharge Permits

The House May 17 is taking up a bill under suspension of rules that would eliminate Clean Water Act permitting requirements for spraying pesticides on waters that already are registered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide...

Water Pollution

Supreme Court Denies Exxon's \$236 Million MTBE Petition

Exxon Mobil's effort to overturn a \$236 million MTBE contamination verdict ended May 16 when the U.S. Supreme Court denied review of the company's claims that the New Hampshire jury verdict amounted to a "trial by formula"...

Water Resources

China to Begin Water Resources Tax Pilot Program

China's central government will begin a pilot program to implement a water resources tax for industrial and agriculture

organizations in Hebei, the province surrounding the municipality of Beijing....

Wetlands

States Now Have Templates to Write Wetlands Standards

State and tribal officials now have templates for developing water quality standards to protect wetlands, according to the Association of Clean Water Administrators....

CORRECTION

A May 13 article, "EPA to Ax RCRA, CERCLA Exemptions From Air Standards," about a proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule (RIN:2060-AN36), has been updated to clarify that the agency proposed to remove an applicability requirement,...

CORRECTION

Because of an editing error, a paragraph with inaccurate information was included in an article dated May 13, "Industry, Advocate Comments Thrash RMP Proposal," on the EPA Risk Management Program. The story should have said only:...

INTERVIEW

Emissions Trading

Ontario Environment Minister Talks Cap and Trade

In Canada, Ontario's provincial government is poised to pass legislation to implement an economywide greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade program to align with programs in place in Quebec and California....

< br>REGULATORY AGENDA

Comment Deadlines

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